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EDWIN L. CROSBY, M. D., DIRECTOR

April 4, 1952

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

In reply to your letter of April 1, 1952, I can only express my regret for the oversight which led to the inclusion of Reference 26 in my review in Bacteriological Reviews and I send you herewith my apology. I shall be glad to write to Dr. Wilson to request that a correction be made in the next issue of Bacteriological Reviews listing Reference 26 as a personal communication. I hope that this will rectify insofar as possible my error.

I was aware at the time the review was written of the questions concerning Boivin's observations on transformation in the colon bacillus and I share your uncertainty regarding the interpretation of his data. In view of the apparent impossibility of repeating his experiments, it is difficult to know how one should comment upon them.

Concerning your query in reference to paragraph 2, page 47, I believe I should include DNA as part of the definition of a transformation reaction in the light of currently available information. I recognize quite readily that such a view may be subject to modification subsequently.

I shall send you a reprint as you have requested as soon as such is available. Again my apology for the error in Reference 26.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Austrian, M.D.